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## Article

UTILIZING AN EFFECTIVE ECONOMIC APPROACH TO FAMILY COURT: A PROPOSAL FOR A STATUTORY UNIFIED FAMILY COURT IN PENNSYLVANIA

*Hon. Stephanie Domitrovich*

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Pennsylvania's family court system is fragmented into various specialty courts. Other states have begun to reexamine the effectiveness of such a system and, using an economic framework, have taken steps to create unified family courts that better address the issues facing modern families and society. The author analyzes the effectiveness of such undertakings, discusses the underlying theories, and proposes that Pennsylvania implement a unified family court system by statute.

## Comments

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## Recent Decisions

**COPYRIGHT ACT — STATUTORY DAMAGES — CONSTITUTIONAL LAW — SEVENTH AMENDMENT — EQUITABLE/LEGAL REMEDIES —** The United States Supreme Court held that where statutory remedies are more analogous to those historically awarded in courts of law rather than courts of equity, the Seventh Amendment, and not the provisions of the Copyright Act, provides for the right to a jury trial.

*Feltner v. Columbia Pictures Television, Inc.*, 118 S. Ct. 1279 (1998).

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**BANKRUPTCY LAW — 11 U.S.C. § 523(A)(2)(A) — EXCEPTIONS TO DISCHARGE —** The United States Supreme Court held that when a debtor incurs a debt for punitive damages awarded as a result of the debtor having fraudulently obtained money, property, or services and the debtor subsequently seeks relief from all his debts by filing for bankruptcy, that punitive damages award will not be dischargeable under § 523(A)(2)(A) of the Bankruptcy Code.

*Cohen v. De La Cruz*, 118 S. Ct. 1212 (1998).

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**AGE DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT ACT (ADEA) — OLDER WORKERS BENEFIT PROTECTION ACT (OWBPA) — RATIFICATION — TENDER BACK —** The Supreme Court of the United States held that an employee's ADEA claim is not barred when a waiver thereof does not comply with the specific requirements of the OWBPA, even if the employee does not return or offer to return the consideration received for releasing claims against an employer.

*Oubre v. Entergy Operations, Inc.*, 118 S. Ct. 838 (1998).

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